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## Environment and Sustainability: October 2022

Environment and Sustainability, Office of the President

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THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



Environment and Sustainability



## Newsletter October 2022

We are excited to be back with latest updates, news, and activities from the Office of Environment and Sustainability.

In this issue, you can find out about:

- ❖ Launch of the 'Sustainability Leaders' series;
- ❖ University's first decarbonization plan developed and approved;
- ❖ AKUH wins environmental excellence award;
- ❖ Our climate work gets featured on radio;
- ❖ And much more..

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### DID YOU KNOW?

Our AKDN Carbon Management Tool has been endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and already rolled out in two of its regions (Eastern Mediterranean and Africa)? Find out more about our innovative tool [here](#).

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Launching the 'Sustainability Leaders' series

The Office of Environment and Sustainability is happy to announce the launch of a 'Sustainability Leaders' series, which is dedicated to celebrating and appreciating global AKU employees advancing the environmental sustainability agenda in their work.

The first three stories are already up on our [website](#). You can read all about the work our colleagues are undertaking to plant forests in Tanzania, reduce hospital waste in Pakistan, and conserve energy on campus.



Glen Tellis

Innovation in planting

[Read Interview >](#)



Rozina Roshan & Nazleen Virani

Mobile Red Bins project

[Read Interview >](#)



Ahsan Niaz

Energy efficiency

[Read Interview >](#)

#### AKU's first Decarbonization Plan approved!

For the first time, a Decarbonization Plan has been developed to allow AKU to reduce its emissions in line with the latest climate science and achieve net zero. The comprehensive plan identifies measures in all emissions areas to be implemented by 2025.

The plan has been thoroughly vetted and approved through AKU's governance mechanisms including the Board of Trustees. For more information, feel free to [contact us!](#)

### AKUH wins 19th NFEH Annual Environment Excellence Award 2022

AKUH won the Annual Environment Excellence Award this year (as we have several times before) in the category 'excellent implementation of EHS best practice'. This includes aspects such as incident reporting, waste management, disaster preparedness, energy audits, etc. The awards, organized by the National Forum for Environment & Health, saw submissions from 100+ organizations from various sectors and were reviewed by a panel of independent judges.



### AKU joins the Net Zero Universities Advisory Panel under SDSN

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) has launched an initiative to develop a guide and online toolkit to support decarbonization of university operations. AKU is one of the 8 universities invited to be part of the advisory panel. The Net Zero University guide is to be launched at COP 27 (the annual climate change conference) in November.

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## RECENT EVENTS

### AKU's climate work gets highlighted on radio

Our Global Senior Manager, Miriam Kugele, was interviewed on the FM91 radio show: 'Green Hour with Khalid Malik' on 20 July 2022. She spoke about the need for and importance of climate change mitigation in the healthcare sector and shared AKU's plan and efforts for achieving the net zero goal by 2030. Questions about climate jargon and readiness for action were also discussed. You can listen to it here on [SoundCloud](#).



### Student Challenge Ideation Sprint

AKU President's Challenge for Climate Solutions kicked off with a 2-day ideation sprint for students. The event walked the students through the design thinking process to ideate possible solutions on this year's theme '[Wasting Nothing](#)'. This will be followed by a Hackathon from 22 to 24 October, during which the students will work on their initial ideas and refine them under the guidance of experts and mentors.

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## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### Arusha Environmental Research Reserve

Around 4000 acres of land in Arusha, Tanzania, have been maintained under AKU's care for over 20 years and used for multiple value-added activities such as nursery for trees, community outreach center, training workshops. Earlier this year, it took on new significance with the planning of the Arusha Environmental Research Reserve (AERR). In mid-October, members of AKU's leadership, faculty, and the AERR Advisory Committee will welcome partnering universities, collaborating organizations, and visiting researchers to further discussions for an emerging program of research.

For more information, contact [emmanuel.sulle@aku.edu](mailto:emmanuel.sulle@aku.edu) and [diana.mackay@aku.edu](mailto:diana.mackay@aku.edu).

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

### Volunteer appreciation

The Office of Environment and Sustainability would like to take this opportunity to appreciate our super talented and enthusiastic volunteer - Aleena Kashif. During her summer break, she worked with us on various research and communications tasks.

About Aleena, in her own words: "*I am 20 years old and a first-year medical student at AKU. I founded an organisation 'Nawah' in 2021 through which medical students work to help Pakistan adapt to environmental catastrophe and climate change. I am a people and nature lover and I dream of seeing a world where their synergy is restored.*"



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## GREEN TIPS

- **Bring reusable everything**

Whether it's your own reusable mug, water bottle, containers, or bags, every bit of mindful action in how we consume things helps the planet. For example, you can now take your own food containers and get them filled at AKU cafeterias!

- **Meatless Mondays**

Giving up eating meat – even once a week – can significantly reduce your impact on the planet. The production of meat uses large amounts of land and water and contributes greatly to greenhouse gas emissions. Luckily, AKU offers at least one vegetarian option every day to choose from!

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*The Environment and Sustainability team looks forward to sharing regular updates regarding environmental sustainability work across the University.*

*Do you have any ideas or feedback for us?*

*We'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to us at [environment@aku.edu](mailto:environment@aku.edu)*

*You can find further information and [useful resources](#) on our pages on [OneAKU](#) and [AKU's website](#)*



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